

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

March 2017 Newsletter

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Rotary plows were at work in late February clearing snowbanks from the tracks near Donner Summit. See the larger photo on page 3. Mike Haire Photo

Scheduled Events & Notices



Mar 16 Colfax Caboose Planning Mtg 7pm – Colfax City Hall Council Chambers

Mar 23 PSRHS Board Meeting 5:30 pm prior to monthly member meeting

Mar 23 PSRHS Monthly Meeting & Presentation 7pm
– Auburn Airport Pilots' Lounge
– Program – Peter Hills – Riding the Rails on Vancouver Island;
Speeder Runs on Mt Rainier Scenic RR and Coos Bay Rail Link

Apr 8 Colfax Caboose Work Day 9am-1pm

Apr 27 PSRHS Monthly Meeting & Presentation 7pm
– Auburn Airport Pilots' Lounge – Program To Be Announced

Through March Rotary Display at California State Railroad Museum

Thanks to All Who Have Renewed Your Membership for 2017



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Monthly Meeting 7PM Thursday, March 23rd, Auburn Airport Pilots' Lounge

March Program: Peter Hills will present Riding the Rails on Vancouver Island: Englewood Railway, Southern Vancouver Island Railway (Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway), with speeder travels to the Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad and the Coos Bay Rail Link. Added feature - snippets from the North Carolina Spencer Railway Museum (N&W 611) and the Tennessee Valley Railway Museum.

February Program Recap: Brendan Compton previewed the second half of Rotaries part II including lots of great video of the rotaries in action. Also interesting footage of preparing to ship SPMW #207 to Iowa for its rebuild and testing of the unit near Norden.

Highlights of February Board Meeting

The PSRHS board of directors met on Feb. 23 prior to the regular member meeting. Items discussed include:

Colfax Caboose – Ken Young reported that caboose work days will occur March 8 and every second Saturday from 9am-1pm. Plan is to have the work completed and the caboose open by the City's July 3 event. Ken presented a proposed charter for the Caboose committee to provide oversight of caboose renovations and displays, and report to the PSRHS board. The committee was approved by the board. A meeting of the committee will be held March 16 at 7pm in the Colfax City Council Chambers.

Railroad Days – The board voted to host a Colfax Railroad Days event in 2019 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of completion of the transcontinental railroad. There was further discussion on whether to host an event prior to 2019. The club has lost money on each of the past four events. Members are assessing the possibility of a smaller event in 2017 without UP equipment if appropriate displays and locations can be secured. A report will be provided at the next meeting.

Roger Staab reported that he is working on an Arcadia book with Art Sommers titled Railroads of Placer

County. Photos from the PSRHS collection will be used along with Art's photos. Half of the royalties from sales of the book will go to PSRHS activities.

The board of directors will meet at 5:30pm Thursday, March 23 prior to the regular monthly meeting. PSRHS members and visitors are welcome to attend board meetings.

Air Medical Response Benefit for Members

At our February meeting Sonja Conklin discussed the costs that may be incurred if you need air ambulance service, and how those costs are greatly reduced if you have membership in CALSTAR/REACH Air Medical Services. She offered the club the opportunity to apply for a rate reduction for club members. That has been implemented and PSRHS members can get a yearly membership for \$55 per household, a \$10 savings. Some of our members report that you can add extended family members to the plan at no additional cost even if they reside elsewhere, such as students at college, etc.

Current members were sent an email notice on how to apply for the discount rate.

New Issue Of Donner Crossings

The Spring 2017 issue of Donner Crossings was mailed last Friday to current members. This issue tells the story of two narrow-gauge locomotives, how their paths were separate but intertwined as they served lines along the Donner route, and their ultimate fate.

Please Read if you use PayPal for PSRHS

Some of our members have used PayPal on our web site to pay their yearly dues. We have a few instances in 2017 where someone has paid with an automatic PayPal yearly renewal and also paid a second time, perhaps not realizing that their PayPal payment was set for automatic renewal each year. We suggest you check your PayPal statements and account to determine if you are set up for automatic renewal.

Passing Scene

The Rotaries are out! After the heavy snows of January and February, UP brought the rotaries out in late February to clear banks of snow that had accumulated along the tracks and provide further testing of the rebuilt rotary SPMW 207. Mike Haire caught this great view of the rotary in action near Troy on Feb. 25.



Amazon Smile Fund Raising

We are now part of the Amazon Smile fund raising campaign. We receive a donation to the society based on your purchases. Please feel free to copy and paste the link below and include it in all your emails.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0488569>

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From the Archives

February Mystery Photo (right): Many of you recognize this photo as the wooden Long Ravine Trestle and Bridge, built in 1866. There are clues in the photo that identify the approximate date. Montague's Chief Engineer's Report of 1877 stated that in 1876 the Long Ravine Trestle was filled in. Since the trestle is still exposed in this image, the photo was taken before 1876. The NCNG tracks were constructed under the bridge portion in late 1875 and they are not evident in the photo. Finally the bridge portion was originally exposed timbers but was covered around 1873, suggesting this Houseworth photo was likely taken in 1873, 1874 or 1875. *PSRHS Collection*



March Mystery Photo (left): Here's a tricky one. What is going on here and where was this photo taken? Answers next month. *Photo courtesy of Art Sommers*

Accidents/Other Incidents. JANUARY 28 1937 A westbound rotary snow plow consist was rear-ended by a westbound freight at Blue Canon. Both were powered by cab-forward locomotives. The plow had stopped just west of a signal to put out a fire in the plow and build up steam. Weather was snowing and blowing with about 10 feet of snow on the ground. A flagman was posted the proper distance behind the stopped plow. The westbound freight had picked up a relief crew so there were 6 people in the cab. The engineer did try to stop the train when he saw the flagman but the freight hit the stopped plow at approximately 8 MPH, damaging both engines, injuring 6 employees and derailing six cars. The investigation determined the cause to be failure to observe automatic block-signal indications and to obey the stop signals of a flagman. *Report provided by Phil Smith from the Tortoise Tattler*

Membership Information

Individual Members = \$25.00/yr
Each Additional Family Member = \$5.00/yr

- Monthly Meetings (4th Thursday) and Newsletter
- Member Activities, History Pubs and Field Trips
- Display and Restoration Projects

PSRHS, P.O. Box 1776, Colfax, CA 95713
or join/renew online at www.psrhs.org

Reader comments, additional details, etc., are invited on any newsletter items or photos. Please forward comments, suggestions or information for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter to:

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